

EVALUATE BULL TROUT MIGRATION BETWEEN THE TUCANNON RIVER AND THE MAINSTEM SNAKE RIVER USING STREAMWIDTH PASSIVE INTEGRATED TRANSPONDER TAG INTERROGATION SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

Data on the migration timing and distribution of PIT-tagged bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) was collected by streamwidth PIT tag interrogation systems installed in the lower reaches of the Tucannon River.

Interrogation data collected between October, 2005 and October, 2007, documented the use of the mainstem Snake River by bull trout originating from the Tucannon River. During this period, 31 unique bull trout interrogations were recorded at the PIT tag array. One bull trout made repeated, consecutive year migrations in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Between October, 2007 and October, 2008, five bull trout were interrogated at the PIT tag array and two additional bull trout were tracked downstream of the PIT tag arrays using radio telemetry. Of the 5 bull trout that were interrogated at the PIT tag arrays, 3 returned to the Tucannon River during the spawning migration in 2008; 1 did not return to the Tucannon River in 2008; and 1 outmigrated in late October, 2008.

Bull trout were detected in October through December and March through May, periods that coincide with immigration into the mainstem Snake River and the spawning migration into the Tucannon River.

No bull trout originating from the Tucannon River have been observed using the fishways of lower Snake River dams.